Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 16, lines 8-19:

The nodes 110, 112, 114 in the eTA system 102 shown in Figure 1 are made highly available by the use of Virtual IP addresses (VIPs). This technique, which is referred to as the Rainfinity technique, is described in multiple pending U.S. patent applications assigned to ~~Rainfinity, Inc. of San Jose, California~~ EMC Corporation of Hopkinton, Massachusetts, the assignee of the present invention, including the U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/547,533 entitled "Distributed Server Cluster for Controlling Network Traffic", filed April 12, 2000, now U.S Patent No. 6,691,165 and the U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/437,637 entitled "Distributed Traffic Controller for Network Data", filed November 10, 1999, which are incorporated herein by reference. In this description, references to "Rainfinity" and associated products are to ~~Rainfinity, Inc. of San Jose, California~~ EMC Corporation, assignee of the invention described herein. Other techniques for providing high availability of nodes may be used without departing from the invention.

Page 24, line 17 – page 25, line 5:

Some or all of the systems may also be maintaining transient local state information, which may be maintained by the server 106, such as through backend Web servers or application servers. For example, the contents of the shopping cart may actually be being built up in local memory in the particular Web server or application server that is maintaining the shopping cart. It should be noted that

Standard APIs, such as the Java servlet and the ASP/JSP APIs, make it relatively easy to create per-session in-memory objects. A description of state sharing and failover techniques is provided in co-pending U.S. patent applications Serial No. 09/547,533 entitled "Distributed Server Cluster For Controlling Network Traffic", filed April 12, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,691,165, and Serial No. 09/566,592, entitled "Distributed Server Cluster with Graphical User Interface," filed May 8, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,801,949, both of which are assigned to ~~Rainfinity, Inc.,~~ the assignee of the present invention.